



Recycle This! Newsletter

*Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program * June 2000*

Legislative Update

The efforts of the 119th Legislature will result in some changes in how we manage solid waste. Here are the highlights:

LD 2084 - An Act to Reduce the Release of Mercury into the Environment from Consumer Products. This enacted bill directs the DEP and SPO to implement an education program relating to mercury-added products no later than January 1, 2001. DEP shall coordinate with SPO to assist interested municipalities and regional associations in developing collection programs for mercury-added products. A Mercury Products Advisory Committee is established to advise DEP, SPO, and the Legislature on further actions needed to prevent and reduce environmental releases of mercury from consumer products.

LD 2442 - Acquisition of Solid Waste and Residue Hauling Assets.



This law requires that a person who wishes to acquire controlling interest in a business that provides solid waste or residual hauling services, provided that the revenue from those services generates more than half of the revenue received in that business, needs to notify the Maine Department of Attorney General prior to completing the purchase of that business. Also under this bill, a Task Force was established to study Market Power Issues Related to the Solid Waste Hauling and Disposal Industry. The Task Force is to submit 2 reports — an interim report this year and a final report in December 2001 to the Natural Resources Committee. (cont'd on page 3)



Maine Recycles Week 2000: Bigger and Better than 1999!

Plans are well underway for Maine Recycles Week 2000. Maine Recycles Week, November 8th - 15th, is the only statewide campaign to promote recycling and buying recycled in Maine. Be sure to take advantage of your opportunity to get involved in this annual campaign. For more information on how you can participate in Maine Recycles Week 2000, please contact Shannon Haines at 1-800-662-4545 or shannon.haines@state.me.us.

New features of Maine Recycles Week 2000:

Maine Poster/Planning Guide: This year each participating entity will receive a Maine Recycles Week poster, along with the national poster, and a Maine-specific Event Planning Guide. The Planning Guide will contain simple suggestions for how you can participate in MRW 2000.

State Prize: Citizen pledge cards (provided by SPO) will again be entered into prize drawings at both the state and national level. The state drawing this year will have even more prizes, including 4 game tickets for each of the following: Red Sox, Sea Dogs, Pirates, and Bruins.

School Contest: As in 1999, there will be a school contest for cash prizes. School participation will be scored by the MRW 2000 Steering Committee. The 3 top-scoring schools will each receive \$500, and *schools that work with their municipal recycling program to promote recycling in the community will earn extra points!* In addition, 5 schools will be chosen at random to receive \$100 cash prizes.

School Poster Contest / 2001 Calendar: One of the many ways that schools can participate this year is the Maine Recycles Week 2000 Poster Contest. Students in grades 1-12 will be eligible to enter the contest. The Steering Committee will choose one winner from each grade and use the winning artwork to create a 2001 Maine Recycles Week Calendar. In addition, one of the twelve final posters will be chosen as the official MRW 2001 poster.

Media Subcommittee: A Media Subcommittee has been formed to ensure maximum press coverage of MRW 2000. Members of this subcommittee have already begun working with local media outlets to plan Public Service Announcements and other special recycling related outreach.

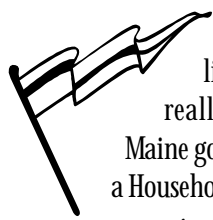
Our web site is now even easier to use!

To get to the home page, simply type:

www.recyclemaine.com

NEW FEATURES: Downloadable Clip Art, a Teachers and Students page, and the latest on Maine Recycles Week 2000

SPO and DEP to Embark Upon HHW Action Plan



At the risk of sounding like a Red Sox fan... 2000 really could be the year that Maine goes all the way and develops a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) management plan.

Two issues, the final passage of the Mercury Products Bill and the pending adoption of a Universal Waste Rule by the Board of Environmental Protection by late summer, have carried the ongoing question of HHW back onto center stage.

In response to the foreseeable need for an infrastructure to manage both mercury products and universal wastes (UW), SPO and DEP worked together to draft an all-encompassing HHW Action Plan. The initial \$438,000 required to begin implementation of the plan was approved in the last session of the legislature.

According to the HHW Action Plan, the following steps will be taken during 2000-2001:

- In July, SPO will hold an outreach meeting on HHW to gather public input on the state's role, target wastes, funding options, grants programs, and linking UW, mercury products, and HHW.
- SPO will develop and complete a five-year State HHW Plan.
- Develop and introduce legislation to authorize funding of an ongoing grant program to establish and support the operation of a state wide system of permanent facilities and mobile collections of HHW.
- Develop and implement a capital investment grant program for improvements to municipal transfer stations for the collection of UW and mercury containing products.
- Establish an aggressive education program



to reduce the generation, and promote the proper handling of HHW, UW, and other targeted wastes, and increase the sale and use of environmentally preferable products.

- Establish procedures for measuring the performance of state funded collection, including standards methods for measuring; participation rates, program costs, quantifying, and identifying collected wastes.
- Develop and begin implementing plans to reduce and manage unwanted paint and gasoline.
- Encourage expansion of existing HHW collection programs.
- Identify possible options for locations and hosts for permanent HHW facilities.

Background

According to the Mercury Products Bill, as of July 15, 2002, no business or governmental entity may dispose of a mercury added product at a solid waste facility. On January 1, 2005, the ban will apply to residences as well. The "mercury added products" named in the bill are: electrical switches, thermostats, thermometers, medical or scientific instruments, electric relay, and lamps (fluorescent tubes).

In addition, DEP is expected to adopt a Universal Waste Rule in the summer of 2000. Generally speaking, UW are those hazardous wastes commonly generated by business that are also generated in quantities by households, such as batteries, cathode ray tubes, lamps, mercury thermostats, and light ballasts containing PCB. The proposed Maine UW Rule will offer businesses reduced regulation regarding the handling of UW in order to encourage recycling and proper disposal, while waste generated by households will remain exempt from regulation.

Faced with the need to fund operations and infrastructure in order to collect and manage these regulated materials through existing regulated solid waste facilities, it was a natural

progression to extend this funding to other problematic wastes, such as unwanted paint and gasoline, and to all other HHW, as further encouragement for municipalities and regional associations to take part.



Until now, with the exception of a few notable regional and community HHW programs, MSW incinerators and landfills around the state have had to bear the responsibility for these wastes. While these facilities have done a good job, they are under increasing federal and state regulatory pressure to clean up their emissions and increase the safety of their processes.

The reasons for implementing a statewide HHW program are the same now as in 1989 when the legislature first addressed the issue:

- To offer a safe, environmentally sound, and conveniently available alternative to illegal or improper disposal of HHW;
- To reduce the overall toxicity of MSW going to disposal facilities in order to reduce actual or potential emissions of hazardous substances from those facilities;
- To reduce the danger of accidental exposure to HHW of persons in the home through the improper storage of unwanted, unused HHW;
- To reduce the danger to workers in the solid waste industry due to accidental exposure to HHW during the performance of their jobs collecting, transporting, processing, and disposing of MSW;
- To respond to the ongoing citizen demand for a cost effective and environmentally sound program to remove unwanted, unused HHW from their residences.

Legislative Update

(cont'd from page 1)

LD 2565 - An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Task Force to Review Solid Waste Management Policy.

This law clarifies the 'trigger' point at which SPO recommends developing a state owned solid waste disposal facility. When SPO finds that 4 years or less of licensed and available disposal capacity for MSW or special waste remains within the state, it shall submit a report recommending the construction and operation of a state owned solid waste disposal facility. Before the enactment of this law, the 'trigger' was when SPO determined that construction and operation of a state owned solid waste disposal facility was needed to address disposal needs within the state. This law also gives SPO the authority and responsibility to provide assistance in the siting of regional disposal facilities for bulky wastes, construction demolition and land clearing debris.

Supplemental Part II Budget. SPO and DEP requested and received a \$438,000 allotment from the Maine Solid Waste Management Fund to begin the planning for and implementation of a Statewide Program for Management of Household Hazardous Waste in Maine. (Please see the story on page 2 for more information.)

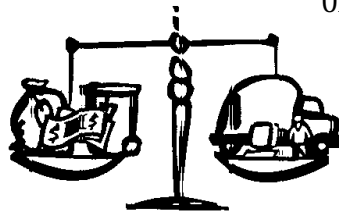
An Update on Pay As You Throw Programs in Maine

Almost every Maine town official will agree that solid waste costs in Maine have been going up steadily. Pay As You Throw (PAYT), or a fee-based system, is one option that municipalities have used to try to control costs. In fact, the number of Maine municipalities adopting PAYT has increased every year, from 52 in 1995 to 78 in 2000. Communities and regions that have recently adopted a PAYT program include the City of Portland, Northern Katahdin Solid Waste District (11 towns) and Kennebunk. In addition, there are a number of towns currently considering PAYT, including Old Orchard Beach, Bethel, Scarborough, Pittsfield, Kennebunkport, and Damariscotta.



The City of Portland's PAYT program, which began in July of 1999, is a celebrated example of a PAYT success story. In addition to the PAYT program, Portland implemented a new weekly curbside pickup for recyclables. Since these programs began, Portland's recycling rate has jumped from 7% to 35% and their trash has decreased 35%. In addition, they have reported very few compliance problems and virtually no illegal dumping.

While Portland is the largest city in Maine, towns and regions of every size have had success with PAYT programs. A recent survey by the State Planning Office indicated that almost every PAYT town has experienced an increase in recycling and a decrease in waste generation, some towns with more dramatic results than others. One concern about this type of program is illegal dumping. According to the SPO survey, some towns have experienced some illegal dumping; however, 75% of towns reported no illegal dumping at all.



One of the goals of a PAYT program is to partially or fully move from a tax-based revenue source to a system where bag/tag fees finance the solid waste program. However, residents are concerned that they will not see a reduction in their taxes. The challenge for towns is to show residents that a PAYT program will decrease their tax burden for the solid waste portion of the budget.

Have You Submitted Your Annual Solid Waste & Recycling Report?

Maine communities are required to submit annual solid waste program reports to the State Planning Office in order to assist with statewide solid waste planning needs. The data from municipal reports is also used in determining the statewide recycling rate. The deadline for the 1999 municipal report was April 1, but SPO is still waiting for nearly 70 reports to be returned by communities and regions.

200 reports have been received by SPO, but we are still waiting for the others. If your community or region has not yet submitted this report, please do so and call Hank Tyler at 287-1489. Failure to send in the solid waste program report will negatively impact SPO's solid waste planning efforts as well as the accuracy of the state's recycling rate.

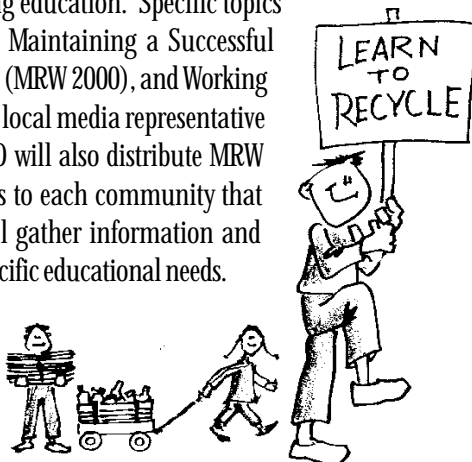
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Catch the SPO Road Show in September: Coming to a Location Near You

In September 2000, SPO's Waste Management & Recycling Program will conduct a series of half-day workshops in seven locations throughout the state. SPO is making a concerted effort to reach out to areas of the state that have not been previously targeted. The seven proposed workshop locations are: Caribou, Machias, Bangor, Sanford, Waterville, Portland, and Oxford County.

These half-day workshops will focus on recycling education. Specific topics will include: the Importance of Forming and Maintaining a Successful Recycling Committee, Maine Recycles Week 2000 (MRW 2000), and Working with the Media. SPO will be inviting at least one local media representative from each area to speak at the workshops. SPO will also distribute MRW 2000 posters, planning guides and pledge cards to each community that attends. In addition to these sessions, SPO will gather information and input from each municipality regarding their specific educational needs.

Look for a brochure on this series of workshops in late summer. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Shannon Haines at 287-8053 or 1-800-662-4545.



Coming Soon

The **Maine Resource Recovery Association Annual Meeting** will be held on June 28th in Bangor at the **Four Points Sheraton Hotel**.

SPO-Sponsored Education & Outreach Workshops to be held in **7 locations in September**. (See the adjacent story for more information.)

Maine Recycles Week is **November 8th - 15th**. It's not too early to start planning! Contact Shannon Haines at 1-800-662-4545 for more information on how you can get involved this year!